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# Fax

**To:** Attorney General John Ashcroft

**From:** Steven A. Cotton

**Fax:** 202-307-1454

**Date:** January 17, 2002

**Phone:**

**Pages:** 2

**Re:** Microsoft Anti-Trust Case

**CC:**

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**3289 Pear Point Road  
Friday Harbor, WA 98250**

January 16, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
United States Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, District of Columbia, 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

I am writing today to encourage you and the Department of Justice to accept the Microsoft antitrust settlement. The suit has been dragged out for over three years now, and it is time to put it behind us. Microsoft and the industry as a whole needs move forward and focus their attention on business at hand; otherwise the economic climate within the tech industry may never rebound.

Many people believe that Microsoft got off easy; in fact, the opposite is true. Microsoft agreed to terms that extended well beyond the products and procedures that were actually at issue in the suit, with the express reason that it will all be over soon. The company also agreed to a three-person technical committee that will monitor Microsoft's compliance with the settlement. A fair settlement and a fair way to make sure that the settlement is followed were reached. The only thing left is to see that the government accepts its own settlement.

In these economic hard times we need to allow business to move ahead. As long as this suit is hanging around, the technology industry will not be able to move further. Please accept the Microsoft antitrust settlement and let us get on with the people's business.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steven A. Cotton".

Steven Cotton